



Safety Rules for Rescue Operations

“Do not go into disaster areas unless you have real help to offer.”

- Do not go into disaster areas unless you have real help to offer.
- Use caution, especially in boats. Floating objects and objects under water can be dangerous. Live electrical lines are extremely dangerous when they are close to or touching water.
- If there is any doubt about the safety of flooded buildings, do not enter them.
- Let buildings air for several minutes before entering them. When checking buildings for gas leaks, use your sense of smell only. Do not smoke, strike matches or carry open flames such as lanterns or torches. If the building smells like gas, open windows and doors, turn off the main gas valve, and leave. Notify the gas company, and do not re-enter until officials indicate the building is safe.
- When entering flooded buildings, look for fire hazards such as damaged wires and short circuits. Also be on the lookout for falling debris such as wet plaster, and for buckled walls, loose bricks, cracks or any shifting of the foundation. Turn off the gas at the meter or tank. Do not turn on the electrical system.
- Do not go into flood water unless it is absolutely necessary for rescue operations. Flood waters carry disease bacteria. Getting a cut from an unseen object could cause serious infection.
- Remember that a flood current is deceptive. It is usually much stronger and faster than it looks. Do not try to swim in flood water.
- Do not try to use small boats to rescue livestock caught behind fences. Cut the fences to release the animals. They can usually swim to safety if water is free from obstructions and if the current is not too swift.

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